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**From:** Jen, Mark  
**Sent:** Tue 2/14/2017 9:57:05 PM  
**Subject:** Donlin Gold Project Meeting - Status of Actions Addressing EPA comments

Lon, Cindi and Matt,

Thank you all for planning to attend the Donlin Gold project cooperating agency meeting tomorrow afternoon.

As I mentioned, I will be meeting with the Corps and Respondents in SE Alaska regarding my 404 Enforcement work. The Corps selected tomorrow for our site visit in Sitka. They plan to refer a case to EPA so I thought it would be a good opportunity to be there on site.

Lon – you indicated that you would be willing to provide the EPA update regarding our recent comments on the HIA. I have provided a short summary - feel free to use this or read off the email we sent to the Corps. I suggest a quick 1 to 2 minute update.

*Earlier this month, EPA provided comments to the Corps on the Donlin Gold Project Health Impact Assessment.*

*We understand that the State does not plan to revise the HIA, but the Corps has agreed to address our HIA comments in the EIS.*

*Our comments on the HIA are consistent with our previous comments recommending that the EIS/HIA incorporate components of an EPA Superfund (CERCLA) human health risk assessment. We believe this would be beneficial to organizing the information, reaching conclusions, and identifying data gaps.*

*We look forward to working with the Corps on the development of the human health risk assessment.*

Donlin has agreed to prepare a human health risk assessment. Donlin's contractor will be developing a scope of work for this assessment, and the Corps has agreed to provide EPA with a copy of the SOW for review. Please remind the Corps to send us the SOW when available for review/comment and the schedule for submitting comments.

Also, the Corps has been pushing a number of Request for Additional Information (RAFI) to address EPA comments on the DEIS. Donlin has developed Technical Memorandums to address them. *(Let me know if you would like to see any of these TM's. The TMs are on the Donlin Project SharePoint Site).*

The Corps will most likely bring up topics regarding our DEIS comments:

**Comment: Subaqueous vs. dry stack tailings.**

Conclusion: Based on the TM, the Corps does not see any environmental benefits to dry stack tailings alternative.

**Comment: Pre-mature mine closure scenario (permanent and temporary).**

Conclusion: Based on the TM, the Corps will include additional analysis in the EIS.

**Comment: Diesel Pipeline Alternative 3B – Avoid Tyonek North Foreland Facility.**

Conclusion: The TM evaluated options, such as the use of the Port MacKenzie Dock Facility to deliver diesel fuel and a subsea pipeline in Cook Inlet from the Tesoro Refinery in Nikiski. Based on the TM, the Corps will dismiss the subsea pipeline option, due to technical issues and costs. The Corps will evaluate the Port MacKenzie Facility as an option in the Alternative.

**Comment: Diesel Pipeline Alternative 3B – collocate a diesel pipeline with the gas pipeline.**

Conclusion: Based on the TM, the Corps will include additional analysis in the EIS to collocate a diesel pipeline with the gas pipeline.

I think this is it for now. Thanks for agreeing to attend the meeting tomorrow.

Let me know if you have any questions.

**Mark S. Jen**

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